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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: THE SENTENCING OF UZBEK
EDITOR DILMUROD SAYID

11. (U) Post is authorized to present the following statement
at the September 3 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin text:

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

The United States expresses its concern following the
sentencing to twelve-and-one-half years' incarceration of the
Uzbekistan journalist Dilmurod Sayid on extortion and forgery
charges following a closed trial. As a journalist, Sayid has
been a marked critic of corruption and abuse of power by
local authorities. His arrest and conviction raise serious
questions about the use of the criminal justice system in
Uzbekistan in suppressing freedom of expression.

As noted by OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Miklos Harazsti August 5, the trial in which Mr. Sayid was
convicted did not meet international standards of fair
procedure and failed to comply with Uzbekistan's OSCE
commitments.

We urge the authorities of Uzbekistan to conduct a thorough
review of the case and to grant a new, open trial for Mr.
Sayid.

In addition, Mr. Sayid has tuberculosis and reportedly has
not received treatment since he has been incarcerated. We
call upon the authorities to provide promptly all necessary
medical treatment for his condition.

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman.
CLINTON